

**Statement of John Arledge**  
**Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor**

**May 25, 2004**

“The accusations made by the Legislative Black Caucus against Governor Barbour are not only false, they are disappointing. It is sad that in an effort to block tort reform the Black Caucus would publicly inject race into the debate. The only *race* Governor Barbour is interested in is the race to end lawsuit abuse so more jobs will be available for all Mississippians – white *and black*.”